



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 148

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2002

No. 115

Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACK REED, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The prayer today will be offered by the guest Chaplain, the Reverend F. Kenneth Hoffer, Mount Culmen Evangelical Congregational Church, East Earl, PA.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Please join me in prayer.

Almighty God, we lift our thanks for Your guidance which has preserved our Nation, a nation "under God," and for the peaceful continuity of government in America.

We look gratefully to the past, thanking You that from the foundations of America, You granted our forefathers courage and wisdom, as they trusted in You.

By their example to lead, guide, and direct, inspire the women and men of this Senate whom You have entrusted leadership to serve and wage the struggle to find peace and justice in our world. May they see Your vision and wisdom for the problems of this hour that we face as a nation.

Bless the Senators as they render dynamic leadership and thank You for all our leaders, diplomats, and military personnel. Let our resources be a strength to all, regardless of race, creed, faith, age, sex, or national origin.

May we work together toward peace, righteousness, and goodness for all peoples of all nations. We pray to You, O God. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JACK REED led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACK REED, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. REED thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. The Senate is going to vote on Timothy Corrigan to be a district judge for the middle district of Florida. Following disposition of that nomination, we will go to the Interior bill; that is, the pending Craig amendment. The Dodd amendment also has been offered. We hope there can be some resolution of the forest amendment. If we could do something about the fire suppression amendments that are around, the Craig amendment and there is another to be offered, we could resolve this bill quickly. It appears at this stage that has not been done yet.

After 2 o'clock, we hope there will be a couple of back-to-back votes. They have been cleared on this side and tentatively cleared on the other side to vote on the Thompson amendment and also on the Hollings amendment. That

has not quite been done yet, but Members should understand there very possibly could be votes at 2 o'clock today.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield.

Mr. CRAIG. I think the leader has certainly appropriately explained where we are with the Craig-Domenici amendment and our efforts. We have met consistently over the last several days with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to see if we could strike a bipartisan agreement. At this time we are working with Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator WYDEN to see if we can come together so they can come to your caucus to determine whether we can pick up support in a bipartisan way.

We would like to have the remainder of the day to work. At the same time, I recognize the frustration holding up the Interior appropriations bill for this purpose. I think both the Senator and I recognize the critical character of what we are trying to do here—or the nature of it—in resolving this issue. If you can give us a little more flexibility, I think at some point—probably by the end of the day—we will know whether we can or cannot go any further.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is really a waste of the Senate's time to debate his amendment today and, further, we pretty well know the respective positions. Senator BYRD will be here to manage the bill this morning. I know he has an amendment to offer, as others do. Maybe there could be an agreement made to set aside the Senator's amendment, recognizing that it would be the matter before the Senate at any time you call it. We will try to work on something like that.

Mr. CRAIG. I appreciate the Senator saying that. I am certainly willing to look at that and allow other amendments that the chairman would think are appropriate to move on this amendment—to move without it being an obstruction.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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